

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

STEPHANIE LYNN FORD,

Plaintiff,

v

CHRISTIANA CARE HEALTH SYSTEMS,

MR. RICHARD BURTON, and

MRS. CLARA CLARK,

Defendants.

: CIVIL ACTION

:

:

:

:

:

:

:

: NO. 06-301 (KAJ)

Wilmington, Delaware  
Monday, August 21, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.  
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

BEFORE: HONORABLE **KENT A. JORDAN**, U.S.D.C.J.

APPEARANCES:

STEPHANIE LYNN FORD

Pro Se Plaintiff

MORRIS JAMES HITCHENS & WILLIAMS, LLP

BY: DAVID H. WILLIAMS, ESQ.

and

MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS

BY: THOMAS S. BLOOM, ESQ., and

KENDRA L. BAISINGER, ESQ.

(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Counsel for Defendants

Brian P. Gaffigan  
Registered Merit Reporter

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

- oOo -

P R O C E E D I N G S

(REPORTER'S NOTE: The following telephone conference was held in chambers, beginning at 4:00 p.m.)

THE COURT: Hi, this is Judge Jordan. Who do I have on the line?

MR. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, David Williams local counsel for the defendants.

MS. FORD: This is Stephanie Ford, Your Honor.

MR. BLOOM: And Tom Bloom and Kendra Baisinger from Morgan Lewis on behalf of the defendants as well, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Thanks.

I have the July 31st letter from Mr. Williams which has a scheduling order attached. And I assume you folks have this in front of you and we'll just roll through this together.

Paragraph 1 is fine.

Paragraph 2, the September 21st, 2006 date is fine.

3a, the 21-hour limitation in discovery is fine.

3c's proposed cutoff of December 21, 2006 is fine.

Looking at paragraph 6, I know this is my standard language but I'll ask you to strike the second

1 sentence because I'm going to let the magistrate judge  
2 schedule you this as she can according to her own schedule.  
3 But leave of the first sentence in there, of course. Just  
4 strike the second sentence of paragraph 6.

5 Paragraph 7, the interim status report in this  
6 matter will be November 2, 2006.

7 Paragraph 8, the status conference we'll hold on  
8 November 9, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.

9 I'll ask defense counsel to initiate that call,  
10 so if you would change that language to say "defendant's  
11 counsel."

12 Paragraph 9. January 29, 2007 as the case  
13 dispositive deadline is fine with me.

14 Paragraph 11. We'll hold the pretrial  
15 conference on June 18, 2007 at 4:30 p.m., which means I will  
16 need the form of pretrial order from you folks on or before  
17 May 18, 2007. All right?

18 Now, that takes us to paragraph 14. And let me  
19 start with the defendants here. If this matter were to go  
20 all the way to trial, how many days do you think it would  
21 take us to try this?

22 MR. BLOOM: Judge, this is Tom Bloom. My best  
23 guess at this point is it should not take more than two  
24 days, although there is a lot we really don't know at this  
25 point, but I think that is a reasonable guess.

1 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Ford, if this were  
2 to go to trial and you needed to present your claims to a  
3 jury with witnesses and documents and everything, how long  
4 do you think it would take to get that whole trial done?

5 MS. FORD: Two days is fine, Your Honor. That's  
6 fine with me.

7 THE COURT: All right. Is there a jury demand  
8 in this case?

9 MS. FORD: I would like to. I was going to send  
10 a letter in to Your Honor requesting a jury trial.

11 THE COURT: All right. We'll go ahead and mark  
12 this down for a two-day jury trial beginning at 9:30 a.m. on  
13 July 16, 2007.

14 Hold on just a minute here for the hours.

15 (Pause.)

16 THE COURT: Both sides should plan on having  
17 four and-a-half hours to present their case. That's  
18 4.5 hours.

19 Okay. Now, Mr. Williams, you have this on your  
20 system, I take it?

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Would you please make the changes  
23 we've discussed here and run that past Ms. Ford and make  
24 sure that everybody is in agreement that it accurately  
25 reflects what we've talked about here on the phone and then

1 send it on over for my signature, please?

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Certainly.

3 THE COURT: Thanks for your time.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, should I put the  
5 number of hours each side has in the order as well?

6 THE COURT: Yes, you should.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 MR. BLOOM: Judge. If I could ask one last  
10 question. This is Tom Bloom. Does the 4.5 hours per  
11 side just include witness testimony or is that including  
12 everything, including openings, summations?

13 THE COURT: It's the whole shebang. It's any  
14 time you are on your feet, other than the jury selection  
15 part, of course. So it includes objections. If somebody  
16 stands up and make an overly long objection, which I'm sure  
17 won't happen, that's how the time counts.

18 Am I sensing in that a desire to ask for  
19 additional time to try or defend this case?

20 MR. BLOOM: Well, I suppose, judge. My only  
21 question is this: No discovery has been taken yet. As the  
22 case proceeds, if it appears to us that it may take two  
23 full days or more hours than have been allotted, is that  
24 something we can come back to Your Honor with to request a  
25 little more time?

1 THE COURT: Well, I'll tell you what. We'll  
2 put this down for three days because it's a lot easier to  
3 contract than it is to expand.

4 MR. BLOOM: Very good.

5 THE COURT: So I'll put I down for three. The  
6 additional time that that is going to give you is -- that is  
7 going to mean that each side has a total of seven hours to  
8 present their case. Don't feel like you have to take it  
9 all, if you don't need it. All right?

10 MR. BLOOM: Very good.

11 THE COURT: Ms. Ford, do you understand that  
12 adjustment?

13 MS. FORD: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Now they've had a couple  
15 questions on their side. Any questions on your side?

16 MS. FORD: No. No, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Thanks for your time.

18 MS. FORD: Thank you.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

20 MR. BLOOM: Good-bye.

21 (Telephone conference ends at 4:05 p.m.)  
22  
23  
24  
25